

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 29, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

October 6

School Pictures

October 10

Institute Day (No School)

October 23-24

Parent/Teacher Conferences (half days)

News

- We had a wonderful field trip on the tall ship Windy. It was a perfect day and we learned all sorts of information about the history of and physics of sailing!

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) You can check out our completed radial name designs on our art blog. 5th grade artists are learning about Keith Haring. We looked at how he uses lines in his art. For our project these were the rules:

- 1) Line starts at stops at the same spot (a dot in the corner of paper)
- 2) Line must stay within half of an inch of itself
- 3) Line must never cross itself (that'd be a shape)
- 4) Line can change as often as you like from wavy to zig-zag to castle, etc

We then traced our hands over our drawings. The lines inside our hands now all turned to shapes. Using thin drawing markers, we colored the shapes.

Music - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> 5th graders will need their recorders for class next week. If you do not have a recorder, they are \$6 and can be purchased through the school website or by bringing in cash or check (to district 97) to me. Please do not buy a recorder from another source. If you need financial help with purchasing the recorder please email me. If your child already has a recorder from somewhere else, have them bring it in and I will see if it is useable for class.

Chorus - Please remember to turn in your child's permission slip if you have not yet. I have emailed you a online permission slip with information on our performance at the Oak Park Arms. If you did not receive it please email me and I will send it out again. Also, there are videos of the songs we will be doing at the concert on the chorus page at <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> . Just click on

the chorus tab.

Gold Belt- Gold Belt Ensemble will be performing at the Oak Park Arms as well so you will be receiving a online permission slip this week.

Spanish - All classes have finished their first story of the school year. We will now move on to assessments and imovies in the next couple weeks. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - There will be a Reading Olympics meeting this Friday, October 3. Any student who is still interested should attend! Please email mmaneck@op97.org with any questions. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

Physical Education - International Walk To School day is on Wednesday, October 8, 2014. The flier for this event is posted on our school's digital backpack. (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

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Reading/Literature

This week, our focus in Reading/Literature will be word study. Students will extend what they have learned about using Greek and Latin roots to understand the meaning of words. Specifically, students will learn about the the Latin directional prefixes *dis-*, *di-*, and *dif-*. Students will learn that these prefixes have two meanings, "apart or in different directions" and "not." Students will engage in a variety of hands-on, group, and independent work to cement this understanding.

Students will also continue to read independently and write their second letter to their teacher about their reading by the end of the week.

Writing

As we begin our Narrative Writing Unit, the students will learn a variety of strategies for gathering seeds (or topics) for writing personal narratives, and the students will also use these seeds to write short entries in their writer's notebooks where they storytell these important moments. Strategies for finding seeds include:

- Think of an important person in your life, and make a list of moments that you especially remember being with that person.
- Think of an important place in your life, and make a list of moments that you especially remember when you were in that place.
- Think of turning points in your life (first times/last times/times when your life almost changed in a big way). Make a list of these times.
- Think of a strong feeling (hope, worry, embarrassment, etc.) and make a list of times when you remember having that strong feeling

Math

Today, students in 5th grade math took a multiplication assessment. Graded assessments will be returned to students early next week. Tomorrow, we will begin working on division of whole numbers. The Common Core Standards call for students to be able to find whole number quotients using strategies based on place value, the properties of operations, and/or the relationship between multiplication and division, and to be able to explain the calculation. To that end, we will be focusing on the partial quotients method, which relies on estimation and a solid grasp of multiplication facts. We will then relate partial quotients to long division.

In order to be working at grade level, it is important that fifth grade math students are fluent with their 1-12 math facts. If your child is struggling with math facts, s/he can practice for five minutes a day using Fact Practice on Moby Max. All students have accounts. Please contact your child's teacher if s/he has difficulty logging in.

Science

This week, we will focus on reading in the content area of science. We are reading text related to the Earth's rotation and revolution around the sun and identifying the main idea and supporting details. Students will also write a summary of the article. To make connections with the article, we will create a model of the sun and earth so students can see how the tilt of the axis creates seasons as the Earth orbits the sun.

Social Studies

In Social Studies we are beginning a new unit on Ancient Americans. We will begin by learning about how the first Americans arrived on this land tens of thousands of years ago. Then, we will zoom in on one particular civilization, the Moundbuilders of Cahokia. Between 1050 and 1150 the city of Cahokia, located in present day southern Illinois, was home to tens of thousands of people. It was larger than many European cities of this time period. We will utilize an excellent online resource called Project Arch-ae-o to guide our study. Project Arch-ae-o gives students access to videos, interactive archeological activities, and games to teach them about archeology and Cahokia. There are much more resources on this site than we have time to explore in class. Interested families may sign-in for free and explore the site on their own. The link is on the 5th grade Wiki!

Spelling/Word Study

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block this week.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>
We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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